Women Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts

3749. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women holding the post of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government would take concrete steps to increase the number of women judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) A statement is enclosed, (*See* below)

(b) Government have addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them, *inter alia* to locate suitable women candidates from the Bar for appointment as High Court Judges.

Statement

High Court-wise details of the Women Judges

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA	1
HIGH COURT	
1. Allahabad	–
2. Andhra Pradesh	1
3. Bombay	5
4. Calcutta	–
5. Chhattisgarh	–
6. Delhi	2
7. Gauhati	–
8. Gujarat	1
9. Himachal Pradesh	1
10. Jammu and Kashmir	–
11. Jharkhand	–
12. Karnataka	1
13. Kerala	1

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14.	Madhya Pradesh	1
15.	Madras	3
16.	Orissa	–
17.	Patna	1
18.	Punjab and Haryana	1
19.	Rajasthan	1
20.	Sikkim	–
21.	Uttaranchal	–
	TOTAL	19

Reason for back log of cases in Courts

3750. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge backlog of cases in various courts is partly because of large number of vacancies of Judges;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to fill them and by when these are likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government would evolve a permanent machinery to ensure that the vacancies of High Court Judges are not held up for want of recommendations from the courts concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Pendency of cases in different courts is arising from various complex factors. These, *inter alia*, include large number of vacancies of judges, inadequate judge strength, increased institution of cases on account of awareness of the rights on the part of the citizens, enactment of numerous laws, radical change in the pattern of litigation, frequent adjournment of cases, rise in population, lawyers' strike etc.

(b) There is no vacancy in the Supreme Court. The filling up of the vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep on arising on account of retirement, resignation or elevation of Judges.